

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (original) An endotoxin comprising at least one engineered cathepsin-sensitive proteolytic site, wherein said endotoxin has improved pesticidal activity relative to an endotoxin which lacks said at least one cathepsin-sensitive proteolytic site.
2. (original) The endotoxin of claim 1, further comprising at least one mutation consisting of an alteration of at least one other proteolytic site whereby the stability in an insect gut of said endotoxin containing said at least one mutation is increased relative to the stability of an endotoxin lacking said at least one mutation.
3. (original) The endotoxin of claim 2, wherein alteration of at least one other proteolytic site consists of replacing at least one amino acid of said at least one other proteolytic site with valine.
4. (currently amended) The endotoxin of claim 1, wherein said at least one engineered cathepsin-sensitive proteolytic site is added in the region between helices 3 and 4 of domain 1 ~~comprises the amino acid sequence FRSRG~~.
5. (original) The endotoxin of claim 1, wherein said endotoxin comprises at least two engineered cathepsin-sensitive proteolytic sites.
6. (original) The endotoxin of claim 1, wherein said endotoxin further comprises an alteration in which an additional amino acid adjacent to at least one of said at least one engineered cathepsin-sensitive proteolytic site is mutated from a wild type sequence so that proteolysis at said at least one

Appl. No.: 10/606,320
Filed: June 25, 2003
Amdt. dated 12/03/2004

engineered cathepsin-sensitive proteolytic site is enhanced in comparison to an endotoxin which does not contain said alteration.

7.-56. (cancelled)